

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4017

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 4215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS GR

SUBJ: PRESIDENT OF LAST GREEK PARLIAMENT PAPASPYROU

SUMMONED BY SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL

1. USIS OFFICES RECEIVED BY MESSENGER, PRESUMABLY FROM OFFICE OF PAPASPYROU, MIMEOGRAPHED COPY OF SUMMONS FROM INVESTIGATOR OF SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL OF ATHENS AND CARBON COPY OF UNSIGNED EXPLANATORY NOTE. SUMMONS DATED JUNE 26, 1974 STATED THAT DIMITRIOS PAPASPYROU, LAWYER BY PROFESSION, IS ACCUSED OF INSUBORDINATION TO ORDERS OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND IS TO APPEAR JULY 9 FOR INTERROGATION RE ACCUSATION.

2. EXPLANATORY NOTE WHILE UNSIGNED CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE WRITTEN IN PAPASPYROU'S DEFENSE. NOTE RECALLED THAT PAPASPYROU WAS EX-MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF LAST PARLIAMENT AND THAT GREEK MILITARY POLICE (ESA) HAD SUMMONED PAPASPYROU ABOUT TWO MONTHS EARLIER FOR INTERROGATION IN CONNECTION WITH MIMEOGRAPHING TESTIMONY OF EX-MINISTER JOHN ZIGDIS GIVEN BEFORE HFAC MARCH 27, 1974 IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ACCORDING TO NOTE CHAIRMAN OF HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE ROSENTHAL SENT PAPASPYROU COPY OF ZIGDIS TESTIMONY WITH TRANSLATION IN GREEK WITH REQUEST THAT PAPASPYROU INFORM MEMBERS OF LAST GREEK

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PARLIAMENT SINCE PUBLICATION OF TESTIMONY WAS NOT ALLOWED

IN GREECE. PAPASPYROU MIMEOGRAPHED TWO HUNDRED COPIES OF TESTIMONY WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY CONFISCATED BY MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES. NOTE CONCLUDED THAT CERTAIN ATHENS NEWSPAPERS LAUNCHED STRONG ATTACK AGAINST JOHN ZIGDIS BECAUSE OF HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE HFAC ON PRETEXT THAT TURKEY COULD EXPLOIT REMARKS.

3. COMMENT: SUMMONS AND EXPLANATORY NOTE CONSISTENT WITH PRACTICE OF DISSEMINATING SIMILAR ITEMS HAS PROBABLY BEEN SENT TO ALL FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AND WIRE SERVICES IN ATHENS, WHO MAY FILE NEWS REPORTS. REFERENCE TO ROSENTHAL MAY BE INDICATION THAT PAPASPYROU MAY INTEND BASE HIS DEFENSE AT LEAST IN PART ON CLAIM THAT HIS ACTION WAS REQUESTED BY U.S. CONGRESSMAN. TASCA

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